REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2003, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made in the claims. The application as presented is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-22 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1, 17, 19 and 22 have been amended. No new claims have been added, and no claims have been deleted. As a result, claims 1-22 remain pending for examination, with claims 1 and 17 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of claims 1, 4-8 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4-8 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,205,476, to Hayes (hereinafter "Hayes"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

1. Claims 1, 4-8 and 15-18

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method of administering a context management system that manages a context. The method comprises configuring a subject data definition which defines a subject in the context using subject data that comprises a data item usable by a plurality of applications comprising at least a first application and a second application, the data item having a set of values comprising at least a first value corresponding to the first application and a second value corresponding to the second application, the set of values identifying the subject in the context, the value of the data item corresponding to the first application being exchangeable with the value of the data item corresponding to the second application when a user switches from the first application to the second application to retain the context.

Hayes does not disclose or suggest configuring a subject data definition that defines subject data comprising a data item usable by a plurality of applications, wherein the value of the data item corresponding to a first application is exchangeable with the value of the data item corresponding to a second application when a user switches from the first application to the second application to retain a context.

Instead, Hayes discloses a method whereby an administrator separately configures user preferences on individual applications (col.4, line 10). The administrator may test these

preferences by running the considered individual application(s) within the "context" of the target user or group (col. 4, lines 53-55). This enables users to use any computer on the network and have the applications running thereon be configured at run time according to their preferences, which are stored on a server (col. 4, lines 12-15).

Hayes does not disclose or suggest many of the limitations recited by amended claim 1. First, Hayes does not disclose a data item usable by a plurality of applications. The system of Hayes is designed to manipulate data items (i.e., application parameters) which are specific to individual applications. Hayes explicitly discloses executing a first Java applet to configure preferences for a first application, and a second applet to set preferences for a second application (col. 4, lines 38-48). Thus, Hayes does not disclose data items which are usable by more than one of the configured applications. Indeed, given that the configuration of each application is likely to involve setting parameters that are varied, heterogeneous and not used by more than one application, a disclosure by Hayes of a data item usable by first and second applications would not make sense.

Second, Hayes does not disclose a data item having a set of values comprising at least a first value corresponding to a first application and a second value corresponding to a second application, the set of values identifying the subject in the context, the value of the data item corresponding to the first application being exchangeable with the value of the data item corresponding to the second application when a user switches from the first application to the second application to retain the context. Hayes simply does not disclose or suggest this capability. Again, Hayes discloses configuring heterogeneous parameters on each application separately. Hayes does not suggest exchanging a first value corresponding to a first application for a second value corresponding to a second application. In fact, Hayes does not even suggest that any of the applications employ common parameters.

In summary, Hayes does not disclose or suggest a method of administering a context management system comprising configuring a subject data definition which defines a subject in the context using subject data that comprises a data item usable by a plurality of applications comprising at least a first application and a second application, the data item having a set of values comprising at least a first value corresponding to the first application and a second value corresponding to the second application, the set of values identifying the subject in the context, the value of the data item corresponding to the first application being exchangeable with the

value of the data item corresponding to the second application when a user switches from the first application to the second application to retain the context, as recited in claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hayes should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-8 and 15-16 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

2. Claims 17-18

Claim 17, as amended, recites a context management and administrative system, comprising a context manager and an administration suite for configuring a subject data definition, the subject data definition defining a subject in the context using subject data that comprises a data item usable by at least a first application and a second application, the data item having a set of values comprising at least a first value corresponding to the first application and a second value corresponding to the second application, the set of values identifying the subject in the context, the value of the data item corresponding to the first application being exchangeable with the value of the data item corresponding to the second application when a user switches from the first application to the second application to retain the context.

Hayes does not disclose or suggest an administration suite for configuring a subject data definition which defines a subject in the context using subject data that comprises a data item usable by a plurality of applications, wherein the value of the data item corresponding to a first application is exchangeable with the value of the data item corresponding to a second application when a user switches from the first application to the second application to retain a context.

As discussed above with reference to claim 1, Hayes discloses a system allowing an administrator to configure user preferences for one or more applications separately. Hayes recites the execution of separate applets to set user preferences for each application. Hayes does not disclose subject data comprising a data item usable by at least a first application and a second application, and having a set of values comprising at least a first value corresponding to the first application and a second value corresponding to the second application, the value of the data item corresponding to the first application being exchangeable with the value corresponding to the second application when a user switches from the first application to the second application to retain the context, as recited in claim 17. Therefore, the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hayes should be withdrawn.
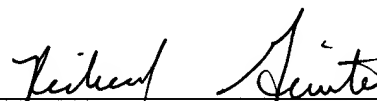
Claim 18 depends from claim 17, and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, the Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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